

EAST BAY TIMES

Oahu for the surf-averse

BY DOUG MORINO, OC REGISTER | PUBLISHED: September 21, 2017



North Shore, OAHU — Ever since California-born surfers first rode the epic waves rolling through Waimea Bay in the 1950s, Oahu's North Shore has been a sporting mecca, a hallowed stretch of coastline that draws surfing enthusiasts from across the globe.

Cruise down Kamehameha Highway between Haleiwa and Sunset Beach from October to February and they're impossible to miss: girls and boys, men and women, the young and old, surfers with boards under their arms and expressions of anticipation and contentment on their faces as they trot across the highway to the crashing waves.

For surfers, the North Shore is the high-water mark on any trip to Hawaii, especially during the winter months, when the Pacific generates powerful storms that churn the powerful swells that fall on palm-lined beaches and rocky coves. But for nonsurfers, Oahu's country shorelines offer a respite from the busy metropolis of Honolulu and resorts that dot the island's coasts.

To be sure, the North Shore is not all surf and sand. Step away from the beaches and you'll find a relaxed stretch of Hawaii's most populated island, a place where mustangs roam green fields, roosters freely meander through gravel parking lots and visitors come for a piece of authentic Hawaii.

Play

Haleiwa: This small town serves as the center of civilization on the north side of Oahu. There are surf shops, artist galleries and high-end fashion boutiques along with shave ice stands and food trucks serving plate lunches.

Waimea Valley: Located off Kamehameha Highway, across from Waimea Beach, this lush valley sits at the end of a short road with a visitor center, café and 150-acre botanical garden. For a \$16 entry fee, you can visit the botanical gardens and take a three-quarter mile hike to the 45-foot Wahi Waterfall.

Ehukai Pillboxes: This roughly 2-mile hike is a short, easy trek for the morning or afternoon. Park at Sunset Elementary School or Ehukai Beach Park. The trail begins just north of the elementary school and climbs a ridge to abandoned military bunkers where you can enjoy expansive views of the coastline.

Byodo-In Temple: A bit further afield, the Byodo-In Temple is worth the drive. The Buddhist temple is nestled at the foot of the Koolau Mountains in the Valley of the Temples Memorial Park in Kaneohe, about an hour from Haleiwa. The structure is a replica of an ancient temple in Uji, Japan and commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the Hawaiian Islands. Although there are no Buddhist ceremonies or worship services held here, the temple has a large koi pond and sprawling garden. The meditation pavilion is a short walk from the temple and offers visitors a quiet place to reflect and relax. Visitors can also ring the Bon-sho, a 5-foot, 3-ton brass bell.

Eat

Ted's Bakery: Off Kamehameha Highway near Sunset Beach, this bakery has been around as long as anyone can remember. It serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, along with a variety of pies and cakes.

Shrimp Trucks: They abound on the North Shore and hungry diners can pull to the side of the road to order piles of fresh shrimp with rice. Giovanni's Shrimp Truck, located outside Haleiwa near Pupukea, is a popular stop.